

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
May 7, 2015

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room, of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, Curt Connors, David White, Janine White, Mike Nonni, Susan Chapnick, Associate Eileen Coleman and Associate Catherine Garnett of the Commission. Associate Michelle Durocher of the Commission, was not present. Also present were Michael Bows, Martin C. von Tersch, Brad Barber, Elizabeth Karpati, Joey Glushko, Teresa DeBenedictis, Caroline Tiffany, Agnes O'Connell, Harriet Noyes, Dominic Meringolo, Bruce Whelittle, Billy Davey, and Garth McSweeney.

7:30pm – Commission Business:

Mr. Nonni reported that he has been sworn in, so he is now a “full” voting member of the Commission. Ms. Coleman is now an Associate member.

Connors/JWhite motioned to approve the 4/16 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chapnick reported on progress of the **Waterbodies** working group, assembling information, performing site walks, meeting with Brad Barber and Elizabeth Karpati. Mr. Tirone is conducting a survey of Reed's Brook.

Ms. Beckwith reported that a debriefing from DEP in regards to how to reapply for the grant proposal for the **Mystic 35 project** will take place on 5/14.

The Meadowbrook Park **cleanup** will be on 5/9.

The Commission discussed the need for a coordinated set guideline of projects/plans for **Volunteer Projects**, such as **Eagle Scout projects**, that coordinates with the Open Space Plan and Master Plan. Some Commission members met with Mike Tabazinski at Meadowbrook Park to review the proposed path and found too many confounding issues for that project to proceed at present. Another set of projects may be possible at Window on the Mystic. Ms. Beckwith will forward possible dates for a site walk there. Another possible location is at Mt. Gilboa. Another set of projects may focus on the needs of birders.

7:45pm **Request for Determination of Applicability** – Clyde Terrace, gas main replacement

Mr. Bows presented the project to install a new gas main in the roadway. Sedimentation controls will be installed as shown on the plans provided. The work should take no more than two days to complete. Silt sacks shall be installed in the catch basins adjacent to the work.

Mr. Connors asked that it be clear that this permission is not an approval of any delineation of the wetland line.

Connors/DWhite motioned that while the work is within a Resource Area, it will not impact that area and no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously.

**8pm Request for Determination of Applicability - Mystic St, gas main replacement**

Mr. Bows presented the project to install a new gas main in the roadway of Mystic St near to Herbert Meyer Brook. Sedimentation controls will be utilized as shown on the revised plan. The work within the Riverfront Area will take a maximum of 2 days to complete. The old pipes are cleaned and abandoned in place. Mr. Tirone asked that the word "hay" be removed from the plan sheet and replaced with "straw". He also asked if the cleanup protocol could be modified to include 72 hour notice for inspection, and is it included in the contract. Mr. Bows stated that the protocol will be edited and the revised copy sent to the Commission prior to issuance of the Determination of Applicability.

Tirone/DWhite motioned that while the work is within a Resource Area, it will not impact that area and no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously

**8:15pm Wetland Regulations – proposed revisions to Commission's regulations**

Mr. Tirone had edits and comments in regards to: the RDA meeting or hearing, small projects definition (which will be removed), proposed a wildlife habitat standard, requested restoring abutter notification stricter than state regs, Cornell method use for BLSF, but not for an RDA, vegetation removal written approval.

Mr. Stevens said that the consultant review fees listed in the regulations are those that are still in the Bylaw, and may need to be modified to current expected rates (the fee structure was first proposed in 2001 or so). He will check with Town Counsel whether the Commission can adjust this fee schedule without Town Meeting approval.

The hearing on revising these regulations is continued to 5/21 at 9pm.

**8:30pm Notice of Intent – 44 Hopkins Rd, remove pavement from driveway**

Ms. Tiffany presented her project to remove the asphalt pavement from her driveway. The driveway loops from the end of Addison St to the lower part of her property at the end of Hopkins Rd. Part of their driveway is on an easement on town land that is located between their property and Addison Street.

Ms.Beckwith explained that the Town Engineer had asked that the gravel type be specified (size, shape, washed). The sedimentation controls should extend all along the work area, size specified. If any replacement plantings were proposed. All asphalt

needs to be removed entirely from the property and disposed of properly.

Mr. Tirone asked how are they proposing to plow the new gravel drive, and suggested that a snow disposal plan be considered. An operation and maintenance plan should be provided so that the owners don't have to come back when new gravel is necessary.

Mr. Stevens suggested that all work be shown in this one permit, on the Town owned parcel as well.

White/Connors motioned to continue the hearing to 5/21 at 8:30pm in order for the owners to provide the above additional information and for the Town Engineer's recommendations to be received; motion passed unanimously.

8:45pm **Notice of Intent** – Spy Pond aquatic weed control

Mr. Stevens recused himself from the proceeding, and Mr. White served as chair.

Mr. Meringolo presented the project to control aquatic weeds in Spy Pond. The program consists of fluridone for control of Eurasian milfoil, copper sulfate to control algae, alum to remove phosphate, diquat for spot treatments of any invasive aquatic plants, and glyphosate for use on phragmites at the water's edge. This program has been ongoing for the past 14 years, with twice-a-year inspections and treatments for conditions as they arise.

Ms. Chapnik asked questions about new data showing more harmful effects of glyphosate. She wants to investigate this information further with the possibility of restricting the method of application, and not allowing spraying. The mixture formula for use near water is the Rodeo brand which they use there. It is possible that the permit will condition that small patches of phragmites should be wicked or wiped with glyphosate, larger areas could still be treated as necessary at the discretion of the consultant.

The Natural Heritage program is currently reviewing the NOI, since Spy Pond has the Engleman's Sedge growing along the shoreline. This permit would last for the next three years. While the applicant submitted an Ecological Restoration NOI, the work does not qualify for an Ecological Restoration Order of Conditions permit. A regular Order of Conditions permit will be issued, if approved.

Chapnik/Connors motioned to continue the hearing to 5/21 at 8:45pm in order to review information on glyphosate and receive feedback from Natural Heritage; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator